

# The Sun

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## The Cyclone in the Teacup.

A well known symptom of the megalomania that affects punk politicians is their absurd attribution of importance to office, and especially minor office, to a merely nominal "leadership," to the chairman of this and that political committee. The protuberant and absorbing question for them is who is to have such and such a job. Is NOAKES to "hold down" a chair in the City Hall or at Albany or Washington? Will STOKES be consul to Pitcairn Island? Will POAKES or MOAKES head the Republican town committee of Dubuque?

These things are mighty in the eyes of punk politicians. To the majority of the people they are of no interest whatever.

From a certain want of mental perspective, from old habits of thought and speech that flourished in the days of the Bosses, to buffer, kick and spit upon whom is now one of the strongest desires of the American people, a disproportionate importance has been given to the selection of the next president of the New York Republican county committee.

The president of that body and all its members ought to be fit representatives of the Republican party, responsible to it and to no Boss or Bosslet, seeking its advantage, working for its interests. It is the nature of such bodies to tend to faction, to personal and narrow views, to the elevation of punk politicians and the neglect of that representative and popular character by which alone they can be of any use, except to the pockets, ambitions or revenges of their members.

Mr. HERBERT PARSONS, one of the candidates for this presidency, asserts that he is the candidate of "no man and no faction." If elected, he continues, "I will be responsible to no one but the Republican voters." That is the right spirit and the right platform. To hide his defeat and save his face, ODELL has plumped over to the Parsons side. This should not be reckoned against Mr. PARSONS, who is as independent as a ramrod, too young for stratagems and spoils, and of an admirably mugwump temperament.

Mr. J. VAN VECHTEN OLCOTT, too, will be equally responsible to the Republican voters and nobody else. It was thoroughly shown on November 7 that there is nobody else but the voters, Bosses, patrons, bigwigs, notables, bahaws of any kind are not needed and need not apply. Nobody rules but the People.

Nobody but the People! That is the momentous thing. Presumably the next president of the Republican county committee will remember that fact. It is important. County committees are not.

## The Ballot Law.

In his clear and convincing decision in favor of counting for WILLIAM TRAVERS JEROME the ballots marked with a cross in the voting circle under the Jerome emblem and with a cross in one of the other voting circles, Justice GIERGERICH of the Supreme court says:

"It would be a perfectly natural error for a voter to make who was in doubt whether to mark at the head of the Jerome column or in front of the name to make the cross in both places."

The great fault of the form of ballot in use in New York State is that it provides so many opportunities for these "perfectly natural" errors. As more than one method of marking the ballot is sanctioned by the law, it is impossible to say finally that one way is the best way. One way may be the best way in the opinion of JONES, but SMITH supports another, and ROBINSON, confused and muddled by conflicting counsels, goes into the polling place in a mental condition likely to result in a void ballot. Last month Tammany was shouting "A mark in front of every name!" to those who wished to split their tickets while Mr. JEROME's managers were posting the town with instructions to mark in a party circle and to mark in the voting space in front of their candidate's name.

Such opportunities to becloud the minds of the voters should not be provided by the law. It should be simple enough to be understood perfectly by every voter. It should provide for only one method of marking the ballot. That method should be the same for every voter, partisan or mugwump. Such a law would be fair to all voters and would put an end to the disputes for which the present statute is responsible.

## Trade With Our Islands.

The Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor predicts for the current calendar year an American commerce of \$125,000,000 with those areas known as "our non-contiguous territories." These include Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Guam and Tutuila. The estimate is based on the trade of the first nine months of the year. The commerce for that period a little exceeded \$103,000,000, represented by exports \$36,552,174 and imports \$66,550,150. This is nearly if not quite four times the figures for the same period in 1897.

Compared with the first nine months of 1901, our exports to these lands have increased about \$6,500,000. The increase to Alaska is nearly \$2,000,000, to Porto Rico a little more than \$3,000,000, and to Hawaii and the Philippines nearly \$1,000,000 each. In all cases the increase appears to be general. One-half of the

Porto Rican increase is in cotton cloth and manufactures of iron and steel. The Philippines bought more manufactured cotton, more provisions and foodstuffs and more iron and steel goods. Hawaii bought automobiles, mineral oil and some general merchandise more freely than last year. Alaska's increase is quite general.

In the matter of imports the increase over last year is given as \$19,000,000. This is a fact, but is somewhat misleading. About three-quarters of this is represented by the single item of sugar, and the increase is due to the abnormally high prices of last season rather than to the increase in the quantity imported. While the islands were the gainers by the existing condition, the increase may not properly be regarded as permanent. The value of sugar exports from Porto Rico and Hawaii will fluctuate in accordance with market prices. The maximum of quantity has probably been reached in both islands.

Our trade with the Philippines lags lamentably. During the last fiscal year our neglected little Porto Rico, with its population of about 1,000,000, bought twice as much as the Philippines with their population of 7,500,000, reinforced by several thousands of American soldiers and civilians, who are responsible for a considerable part of the demand for American goods. Philippine conditions will be little if at all improved by a tariff adjustment which leaves any duty on any Philippine products entering our ports, and they will be incalculably injured by the imposition of the coastwise shipping law scheduled for application next July.

Labor Unions and Public Schools.

Comptroller GROUT, who is conspicuous among the large number of dissatisfied citizens anxious for a reformation in the study courses of the public schools, addressed the Thomas Hunter Association Saturday evening and said, among other things:

"This is a complaint against a system of impractical education, costly, ineffectual and wasteful. Of what value is it to a boy to know the blood circulation in the tail of a tadpole? I'd like to see less of book study and more of manual training."

By restricting "book study" and extending the courses in manual training Mr. GROUT and those who think with him would seek to send out the graduates of the public schools with a sufficient education in the elementary studies and such efficiency in manual occupations as would enable them to take their places among skilled workmen at once, or very soon after graduation. The plan is an attractive one. The skilled artisan is not likely to come to want, or become a public charge, except through vicious habits or some inherent deficiency that no education now practicable can overcome. But what would be the attitude of labor organizations toward such a system of education?

What the labor leaders of to-day consider success for the movement they lead consists in a restricted supply of workmen, with consequent high wages and short hours of labor in their trades. To attain these ends they have reduced the number of apprentices, made affiliation with their unions difficult, and sought in every way to monopolize their crafts. In this country it has never been so difficult for a boy to learn a trade as it is to-day, and the difficulties in the way of the beginner will increase as long as the unions adhere to their present policy.

If every public school were transformed into a workshop, and every pupil became an apprentice, all that the unions have accomplished might be undone within a few years, unless the work of the schools was entirely useless and ineffective. Union opposition to effective manual instruction has already appeared in Massachusetts, and the spirit responsible for it in that State would not be slow to develop elsewhere.

If manual training classes in the public schools did not fit the pupils for employment in the trades taught they would be as useless as the most vigorous opponent of the present studies holds them to be. If they did turn out pupils ready to go to work, the labor unions would find a situation to meet which they are utterly unprepared.

## Some More Striking Facts About the Population of This Town.

On Monday we analyzed statistics gathered and compiled by the Church Federation of this city, a Protestant organization, relating more specifically to the ages of the population of New York. From the same bulletin we now summarize the very significant facts presented as to the religious divisions and conditions of the people.

It appears from these statistics that New York is becoming less and less of a Christian community. Since fifty years ago, or 1854, the Christian and nominally Christian population per church has nearly doubled. In those fifty years the number of Christian churches increased from 450 to 1,163, but in 1904 there were 3,302 people to a church, while in 1854 the number was only 1,891.

About one-third of the population of New York is now Roman Catholic. About one-half is Protestant, but more than half the Protestants, or more than a million, are altogether outside of all churches, apparently indifferent to all dogmatic religion, even where it is not positively rejected by them. Less than one-sixth of the Protestants are communicants of churches, but in addition something more than one-fifth are attendants on churches, that is, pay some heed to religious observances. The Jewish population is now about 750,000. Add these Jews to the "churchless" Protestants and we get nearly half the population, or more than 45 per cent. The Jews number nearly as many as the Protestant communicants and churchgoers put together. The "churchless" Protestants are nearly as many as the entire Roman Catholic population. It appears, too, from a census made by this federation in various Assembly districts that a very large part of the Jews are outside of the synagogues—Hebrews by race rather than in religious belief. If we added their number to the Protestant population not in the com-

munion of churches we should probably get a majority of the people. Include the very considerable number of Roman Catholics by baptism who have become religiously indifferent and we have a large majority.

These statistics explain why, when discussions of questions of religion arise among our correspondents, the preponderance of the opinions expressed are religiously sceptical. New York is no longer a community which adheres to the old dogmas of religion. It is not even Christian except in a nominal sense. About one-fifth of its population are of another religion, the Jewish; but of these a very considerable part are only Jews by race and have joined the majority who have no religious faith strong enough to induce them to ally themselves with churches or synagogues or to range themselves openly with religious believers.

Dr. WALTER LAIDLAW, the secretary of this Church Federation, who is remarkable as an expert in the analysis of census statistics and in computations from them, estimates that in 1920, in a circle of twenty miles radius from the City Hall, there will be 8,624,336 people, or toward four hundred thousand more than London will contain at that time. At the rate at which the population of this area has increased since 1900, according to the censuses of this State and of New Jersey, the preponderance will appear even sooner.

The population of the New York metropolitan area, however, will differ radically from that of the London area in its race composition. Instead of being in vast majority English, or of the United Kingdom, as in London, in great majority it will be made up of representatives of other races than the English and the American of longer settlement here. In the Borough of Manhattan, for example, native whites of native parentage comprised only about one-sixth of the population in 1900, and since then the fraction must have become less. Those natives, too, are in great part descendants of immigrants who came here in the last century, so that the population of old American descent must be relatively very small.

This federation reports that its most recent census shows that of the old American stock especially a great number have fallen away from anything like strict religious faith. Every Protestant communion, it says, "is losing its hereditary families." Meantime the Roman Catholic Church is strained to the utmost to keep faithful to their religion the great additions to its baptized adherents which it is receiving by immigration, and the Jews are complaining of the loss of devotion to their ritual and their belief among the Americanized of their race.

These statistics and tendencies afford an explanation of the newly aroused efforts to combine Protestant agencies for evangelical propaganda in New York and of the attempts of Jews to check the inroads which infidelity and indifference are making into their ranks.

What Does Bob Rogers Say?

The Hon. JEFF DAVIS, Governor of Arkansas, can boast that if he is to be linked it has to be done somewhere else than at the polls. He is a spirited, a heroic character. His fame over his living head is bent. Myths and legends are thick upon him. This legendary character explains the surprising frequency with which he is knocked down.

So ROBIN HOOD in the ballads is soundly outwitted by the proud pinner and other worthies.

Palpable is the legendary character of the proceedings at Fayetteville Sunday. So we can choose, among the legends, the most probable. This says that the Hon. HUGH ANDERSON DINSMORE, Representative in Congress of the Third Arkansas district, sometime Minister Resident to Korea, Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, and the Hon. JACK WALKER, drummer, "strode into the Governor's room" with drawn guns and without parley beat him over the head with the butts of their guns. Only then did he defend himself with his cane.

This is JEFF's own account. We believe it to be correct, because "a surgeon took sixteen stitches in the Governor's scalp." JEFF's romantic passion for 16 to 1 is notorious.

But in this nebulous atmosphere of myth, who can find his way? Thus a despatch from Fort Smith calls Mr. DINSMORE "a little, slender, old man." This "old man" was born in 1854, we believe. According to the Dinsmorean version, DINSMORE, WALKER, DAVIS and a friend of DAVIS's went to the Governor's room. Some something vivid was saying and doing:

"I want the private letter I wrote to Senator Brown," said DINSMORE calmly and firmly, "the letter that disappeared from the most important of our campaign purposes, and that you are using for campaign purposes. And I don't get that letter!"

Mr. DINSMORE began to talk in unfriendly Anglo-Saxon. The Governor rushed from the room and called for officers. Mr. DINSMORE followed and demanded the letter again; the Governor told him it was in Little Rock.

"You're a liar and a thief," cried DINSMORE, red hot.

At that Davis struck him over the head with a heavy cane, felling him and breaking the cane. As DINSMORE warded off the blows Davis rained on him. The Governor turned and ran to the hotel rounds. DINSMORE chased him, and although his friends yelled at him to shoot he didn't, but only pounded the Governor on the head with the butt of his revolver. While Davis cried for help and tried to protect his head with his arms, DINSMORE chased him around the rounds until his friends seized him and persuaded him to take a little refreshment.

We don't believe that Mr. DINSMORE had a revolver. In September the Hon. BOB ROGERS, Attorney-General of Arkansas, was accused by Governor DAVIS of making a conditional threat to kill him. At a public meeting the Attorney-General turned to the Governor and said:

"Kill you? Why, I can take a corncob with a lightning bug on the end of it and make you jump into the Arkansas River."

If the Governor ran around the rounds of the Fayetteville hotel it was because Mr. DINSMORE aimed at him with a corncob and an imitation lightning bug. But how did he keep out of the Arkansas? Respectfully referred to the Hon. BOB ROGERS.

## FOOTBALL.

How the Evils of the Game Have Developed, and How They Will Be Eradicated.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Last Saturday, November 25, a crowd of several hundred persons jammed the open space between Park row and the City Hall. To the stranger among our gates, "saying New York," it would have been an interesting sight—every eye fixed upon a bulletin board on one of the newspaper offices across the street, and the buzz of eager conversation rising at frequent intervals to a shout of exultation or subsiding to a dead hush of tense expectation.

"The country at war?" we can hear our imagined visitor from overseas inquire. "Are the people getting election returns? Or is there a financial crisis on?"

"Aw, g'wan"—this from a grimy urchin of the streets, "but you're bound to blow in from anyway? Doncher know dat de Yales is lickin' de Harvards?"

A game—a football game—a college football game! And with a puzzled, "Ah, these Americans," the foreigner fakes away. "These many of the same good Americans in the crowd that day understood the difference between a touchdown and a ten—any other kind of a touchdown? How many knew the first thing about Yale or Harvard?"

Why is this thus? Because every year there has been a howl from that classical part of the public that love a "frog chorus" better than did Aristophanes—the croakers. The makers of rules and the coaches of teams have been in the habit of going on and on with new ways to win games. "Win! Win! We must win!" was their cry; and blindly they ignored the genuine protest that began to mingle with the sensationalism. Last year the protest rose to a high pitch, and the cry for reform could no longer be ignored. The makers of rules professed repentance—juggled a word here and a phrase there to effect the desired change, and the game was to be taken in. They were the fools, these wise fathers of football! They had the game in their hands, and with reckless disregard of its shortsightedness they chose—the

game. Despite the ill worked by their misguided policy, however, the game is not wholly spoiled. It can still be saved. There is something wrong with football, say its opponents. What, then, they say, is right? Not to reform the game by abolishing it. There is something wrong with the game, they say, but it is not the game itself that is wrong, but the life insurance business. What, then? Shall we set it right? Yes, they say in this case, we set it right by abolishing the life insurance business. By abolishing the life insurance business, they say, the evils of football are corrected.

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I firmly believe that this whole matter will be settled during the coming winter, and even before that. Our colleges are cherishing high ideals of honor as can be found in any other organization of the old American stock. The student body is a "pimple-faced, unathletic" crowd, as I was pained to see them called in the columns of Tuesday. The set of young fellows can be found anywhere that you will see on the campus of any college.

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## THE CANAL.

Some Facts That It Behoves the Public to Know.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It is a puzzle for many people to hear that a tiny little canal some level canal is difficult to build in twenty years with steam shovels and cars when the huge Straits of Panama can be easily excavated in the same period by floating dredges and scows, after a high level lock canal is opened to the world's commerce, which can become a fact in four years.

It is because the railroad excavation and transportation plant are everywhere three times less powerful and three times less economical than the same operations made on water, and also because on the isthmus this inferiority is still more accentuated by the special difficulties attending the transportation inside of the great cut.

To make an efficient transportation service it is necessary, first, to have a perfectly well established and well ballasted roadbed; second, to have a well equipped body of laborers to correct constantly any fault discovered; third, to keep it perfectly drained.

The tracks are established on terraces, the limits of which change every day and they are therefore constantly shifted. To establish and ballast them properly one day is impossible when you have to change their places the next day. The experienced labor for laying and maintaining them is lacking entirely. The drainage is impossible at the bottom of a huge gutter where tropical rains flow during nine months of the year.

The transportation inside of the twelve miles long central cut is the real essential obstacle to the railroad plant.

To remedy the situation by increasing the power of the steam shovels is just as logical as it would be to increase the size of the reservoirs in a town which is short of water because the main pipes have not a sufficient diameter.

PHILIPPE BÉNAU-VARILLA.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.

## COMMERCIAL JAPAN.

How the "Yankers of the East" Are Rivalling Britain in Asiatic Trade.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: If the Spirit of the West has any time to spare from its own troubles, it must be contemplating the situation in the East with some of the same emotions as the fisherman in the Arabian Nights story did the Afreet that emerged from the jar he drew out of the ocean in his net. The difference between the two cases is that whereas the fisherman's net was successful in catching the Afreet, the Afreet, in which he effectively sealed him up again, there is no sign that the Japanese Afreet can or will be put back into the hermit case from which the exercise of western arts enabled him to free himself. On the contrary, the Eastern Afreet is out of the jar for good and all, and henceforth he will have to be reckoned with in every phase of the world's affairs, but more particularly in the commercial.

With the same methods and determination they used in preparing for the war with Russia the Japanese have planned and are now putting into effect their schemes for the conquest of the Eastern and Western Asia. Having forecast the result of the war before the end was yet in sight, Japanese shipowners took measures for capturing as much as possible of the carrying trade of the world. They have now extended their operations with British firms for shipping materials and are organizing their own shipping industry. In the near future they will be independent of foreign assistance. Their next war will be one of freightage, which, if they win, will be a war of the world's affairs, but more particularly in the commercial.

The Japanese are also planning a short time previously for the same purpose, which makes it evident that Japan will be a powerful factor in the future of Asia. The Japanese shipping combine has been formed and is now in the process of organizing. The Japanese Government, it will be in a position to compete on terms impossible for the British, and already they have driven to the wall without such adventitious aid being given to their rivals.

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## FAIR TO AID STRAY DOGS.

Sale at the Waldorf for the Benefit of Bide-A-Wee Home.

With yaps and meows from well fed and much beribboned cats and dogs, the children of the Bide-A-Wee Home for homeless cats and dogs opened at the Waldorf yesterday afternoon. Everything from rubber boots for the dog to much beribboned cats and ribbon petticoats for the mistress was on sale. The dogs were only on show. That is the live dogs. "I want a pair of boots for this French bull. She's a thoroughbred—was sired by Champagne and—"